

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11 are all the claims pending in the application, claims 2 and 8 having been canceled and new claims 9-11 having been added, as indicated herein. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2 and 4-6 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 3 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Brown et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,366,622), hereinafter referred to as Brown.

Applicant amends claim 1, as indicated herein, to incorporate the limitations of claim 2, which contains allowable subject matter. Applicant submits that dependent claim 3 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1. Claims 4-6, which contain allowable subject matter, are amended, as indicated herein, to depend from claim 1. Claim 2 is canceled. Based on the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that claims 1 and 3-6 are allowed.

With respect to claim 7, Applicant amends this claim, as indicated herein, and submits that the prior art does not teach or suggest at least “wherein the first communication device broadcasts the slave information to at least one new device entering the network substantially soon after said at least one new device enters the network,” as recited in amended claim 7. Applicant believes that the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 in the originally filed specification, supports the addition of the features recited in amended claim 7.

Finally, Applicant adds new claims 9-11, as indicated herein, to round out the scope of protection solicited for the present invention. Applicant submits that the prior art does not teach or suggest at least “(c) designating a back-up master order at the time of entry into the network in step (b) and broadcasting the back-up master order to other slaves”, “(c) determining a master

according to a designated back-up master order if there is no network master established in step (b)", and "(c) changing the first communication device into a Park mode if the first communication device does not communicate with another device after receiving network information from the network master, receiving information broadcast by the network master, and updating the network information received in step (b)," as recited in claims 9-11, respectively.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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